

# STATE LEAGUE RULES

2021/22 SEASON



**GET  
COURT  
UP**

## 1. *Schedule of Matches*

- 1.1 The number of rounds will be determined by the number of teams nominating and accepted. 14 home and away rounds will be played in the event the competitions have 8 teams. If one or both men's and women's competitions have 6 teams then the season will have 15 home and away rounds
- 1.2 First round commencing TBD
- 1.3 Last round before Christmas TBD
- 1.4 Break after TBD, and resuming TBD
- 1.5 Last round to be played on TBD
- 1.6 Finals will be a floating fixture due to the tournament calendar not yet being released.
- 1.7 In the case of a 15 round home and away season the above date may be adjusted accordingly.

## 2. *Matches*

- 2.1 Each match will comprise 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches.
- 2.2 A team may use up to 8 players in each match with persons who played singles being substituted in the doubles matches.
- 2.3 A team must play its singles players in singles Order of Merit. Number 1 or 2 highest ranked player in order of merit, playing doubles on the day must play in the top doubles pairing. Other players are flexible to move.

## 3. *Manager/Captain*

- 3.1 Each team must have an appointed Team Manager (non-playing) or Captain (playing) appointed for each match.
- 3.2 Each Team Manager or Captain must, prior to the scheduled start time of the match, complete the team score sheet by writing a list of singles players on the score sheet showing the order in which his/her team will play and exchange the score sheet with the Team Manager/Captain of the opposing team. The doubles players may be named after the completion of the scheduled singles matches.
- 3.3 Both teams are required to print out a score sheet from Match Centre. In the case one or both teams do not have their scoresheet printed from League Manager with all players listed, as outlined above, the State League Official will report this and a penalty, being a loss of 2 premiership points will be applied.
- 3.4 The Team Manager must attend from the commencement and remain at the State League match until the match is completed and will be responsible for the team abiding by State League Match Rules, Order of Merit and Code of Behaviour and any other policies as referred to in the State League Rules.

#### **4. *Balls and Ball allocation***

- 4.1 Dunlop tennis balls are to be used. Six cans of four Dunlop Balls will be used for the match in total (2 dozen).
- 4.2 The HOME team is responsible to collect all balls necessary to complete a match.
- 4.3 Tennis SA will distribute the balls required for home matches. Club contacts will be advised where balls and score sheets can be collected prior to the commencement of the first match.
- 4.4 For Singles matches - at all venues - 3 new tennis balls to be used in rotation during the first two sets and 2 new tennis balls to be used for the 3rd set of every match.
- 4.5 For Doubles matches - at all venues - 2 new tennis balls to commence the match and then choose between the best tennis balls for further sets.

#### **5. *Match Times***

- 5.1 The scheduled starting time will be 1pm for home and away matches on a Saturday afternoon (unless otherwise notified) – 2 courts per match.
- 5.2 State League teams are able to apply to the State League Advisory Group in writing to hold matches at different times. These requests must be sent to the State League Recording Secretary prior to the commencement of the season.
- 5.3 Players must be ready to play at the stipulated match time.

#### **6. *Order of Play***

Teams are permitted to use up to eight (8) players in a match. Singles matches shall be played first. After commencement, play is to be continuous. In normal matches singles shall be played in order of merit, e.g. No. 1 & 2 followed by No. 3 & 4. However, the order of play may be amended by prior agreement between the captains.

#### **7. *Scoring***

- 7.1 Matches shall be decided by rubbers, where rubbers are even, by sets and where sets are even, by games.
- 7.2 Singles shall be the best of three, six game tiebreaker sets with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games all.
- 7.3 Doubles shall be the best of two, six game tiebreaker sets with a 12-point tie-break (traditional, first to seven points) at six games all in either set. If after the second set the match is one set each then a match tiebreak (first to 10 points with a 2-point margin or a 2-point margin after 9 points all is to be played)
- 7.4 For all dead rubbers, a match tie-break\* is played at one set all. Super tie-break. First player to 10 points with a 2-point margin, or a 2-point margin after 9 all.

## 8. **Forfeits**

- 8.1 Forfeit of a singles rubber, except in the case of injury or sickness during the match, must be from the number 4 position up. If a player is unable to play in a doubles match due to injury or illness in a singles match, and no substitute player is available, and a doubles rubber must be forfeited then the bottom double must be forfeited first. Failure by a team to forfeit in the correct order will result in a loss of four (4) Premiership points.
- 8.2 If a player forfeits in doubles or singles on any given day, they will not be eligible to play in the opposing singles or doubles match.
- 8.3 A team proposing to forfeit a match or a rubber shall notify the opposing team and Tennis SA as soon as possible. A team so giving a forfeit, shall in the absence of providing a reasonable written explanation to the Recording Secretary prior to 6:00pm the following Tuesday, be liable to lose four (4) Premiership points

## 9. **Weather implications**

- 9.1 In the event of extreme weather (including but not limited to rain or excessive heat) a message will be placed on the Tennis SA Website - [Inclement Weather Update](#) by 11:00am on the day of the scheduled match.
- 9.2 Matches will be cancelled in accordance with the Tennis Australia Extreme Weather Policy (Cancelled at 37 degrees or higher).
- 9.3 In the event of any scheduled match, on the day set down for such, being interrupted or incomplete due to inclement weather the matter shall be referred to the State League Advisory Group for decision.
- a. The procedure at the match is as follows. If no set is commenced by 3.00pm the match will be abandoned. If no set is completed by 4.00pm the match will be abandoned. This decision is to be made in consultation with the official, who will make the final decision. Players must remain at the courts until the relevant time as stated.
- b. If neither team is in an unbeatable position, no rubbers will count and the match will be considered "unplayed" with the premiership ladder determined using a points ratio (i.e. average points per matches played);
- c. If one team is in an unbeatable position, it will be deemed the winner and given 4 premiership point, plus 1 point for each winning rubber and the unplayed or unfinished rubbers will be deemed split between each team.

The premiership ladder will be calculated using points ratio (average points per matches played)

- 9.4 In major round matches players must remain at the courts until 4:00pm or 2:00pm for lawn court matches before making any decision to abandon the match. Before leaving the courts, arrangements must be made to complete the match, started or not, on the Sunday following, times by mutual agreement. Some sets may be played early in the next week if agreed.

- 9.5 In the case of extreme heat on Grand Final day, matches may be played from 8am using four court per tie.
- 9.6 In the case finals matches are cancelled the following process will occur:
- (a) If it is in week one of finals a 1v4, 2v3 system will be used for week 2. In the case it is on the second week of finals, the higher placed teams will move through.
  - (b) If a weather cancellation is to take place on Grand Final day then the match will be played on the Monday evening following at 6pm. In the event ties have not completed singles matches, men's Grand Final will be played on Monday at 6pm across four courts with women's Grand Final played on Tuesday at 6pm across four courts.
  - (c) If there is a Weather cancellation on the substitute time, the higher placed team will be considered the winner.

## 10. Results

- 10.1 Tennis SA will be using the Tennis Australia approved competition software, League Manager. Captains will be required to **enter and confirm** the results of their match on League Manager/ Match Centre by 11:59pm on the Sunday following the match.

## 11. Match Disputes

All match disputes must be made to the appointed official during the match and they will be responsible for making the final decision.

No Match Dispute will be considered post the completion of the match as they should be resolved during the match.

Please be aware that all teams are responsible for following the rules and regulations stated. It is the team's and club's responsibility to dispute a ruling if they believe they have been unduly affected by the result of a rule breach. Penalties will only take place after a dispute has been made and proven true. If teams are to break the rules the opposition has the right to dispute the result.

## 12. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

- 12.1 Any question arising from or in connection with the interpretation or construction of these rules and regulations shall be determined by the State League Advisory Group in its absolute discretion.
- 12.2 The State League Advisory Group may alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time without prior notice

## 13. Premiership table

- 13.1 Four premiership points will be awarded for a winning match and two points for a draw plus one premiership point for each winning rubber.
- 13.2 Premiership tables to be decided by points and in the case of equality of points at the end of the minor round, the team with the best percentage for and against (rubbers, then sets, then games)

- 13.3 shall be deemed minor premiers. In divisions with a bye, the premiership table will be decided by match ratio. (Match ratio is the Premiership points divided by the number **of matches played**). **If equal on match ratio then by rubbers, then sets, then games.**

## **14. Finals**

- 14.1 The four teams securing the highest number of points shall play off in the major round.

**14.2 Finals will be played in a two week or three week format, subject to the release of the Tournament Calendar**

- 14.3 In the event of a bye in a draw or partly cancelled round, the four teams securing the highest match ratio shall play off in the major round. In the semi-finals, the Minor Premiers and the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team will each have the option of hosting a home final on courts of a standard approved by the State League Advisory Group. If the team declines, the decision as to where the match is to be played shall be made by the State League Advisory Group.
- 14.4 In the event of a draw the team that was ranked higher heading into the match will be declared the winner.

## **15. Finals Qualification**

- 15.1 Nominations of teams for each final round match must be in writing and in the hands of the State League Recording Secretary on the Tuesday preceding the programmed date of the match. Singles players are to be listed in order of merit and the provisions hereof relating to the conduct of minor round matches shall apply to the extent that the same are not inappropriate.
- 15.2 Players in the major rounds are to remain in the same order of their position of merit throughout the Finals Series– unless injury or similar requires any replacement players.
- 15.3 No player may play in finals matches unless that player is a registered member of Tennis SA and has played in no less than five minor round matches in at State League level or at a lower level competition. In the event of 12 or less matches being played during the season, players will be required to play in no less than four minor round matches to qualify for finals. There are no grounds for appeal for players who have played less than the required amount of matches to qualify for finals.
- 15.4 In the case a State League Team does not have a Metro League team, a player may play for two different clubs. In this case three State League and two Metro League matches will be required to be eligible for finals.

**15.5 Before finals, teams are required to submit no more than four doubles combinations to the State League Advisory Group for grading. Only the four listed combinations are allowed to take the court (injury permitting). Number 1 or 2 highest ranked singles player in order of merit, playing doubles on the day must play in the doubles pairing. Other players are flexible to move. This must be submitted no later than the Thursday before finals.**

## 16. *Code of Behaviour issues*

- 16.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour for Weekly Competitions.
- 16.2 All Code of Behaviour reports shall be sent by email to Darren Sahb (dsahb@tennis.com.au) by midnight Monday following the match in which the incident took place.
- 16.3 The Board of Tennis SA may appoint a Tribunal to deal with any Code of Behaviour reports.
- 16.4 Team Captains and Team Managers are responsible for
  - (a) Educating all players in their team on their responsibilities in the Tennis Australia National Policies (particularly the Code of Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy) and
  - (b) Managing all players in their team in relation to match play and sportsmanship.
- 16.5 The State League Advisory Group will provide Court Supervisors for each tie where possible. Each Court Supervisor will be asked to submit a report to the State League Advisory Group including any breaches.

## 17. *Penalties*

The State League Advisory Group may apply penalties for any breaches of the State League Competition Rules other than Code of Behaviour matters. The State League Advisory Group may determine a dispute in any way it sees fit and impose a penalty, including but not limited to the forfeit of matches or sets, and the loss of premiership points, on any club or player involved in such a dispute.

## 18. *Attire*

- 18.1 All players are required to wear the approved club top
- 18.2 Every player shall dress and present himself/herself for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable **tennis attire** shall be worn. Any player who violates this may be ordered by the official to change his/her **attire** or equipment immediately.